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Special Meeting, Dec. 31.

Present, thirty-nine members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The President announced the death of the venerable Treasurer and Librarian of the Society, John Vaughan, Esquire, which took place on the morning of the 30th instant, at the age of 85 years, 11 months and 14 days; and laid before the Society the following minute of the proceedings of the Officers and Council on the occasion:—

“At a special meeting of the Officers and Council of the American Philosophical Society, held on the 30th of December, 1841, Mr. Du Ponceau, President of the Society in the chair; the death of Mr. Vaughan having been announced, the following minute and resolutions were adopted on motion of Mr. Kane:—

“The Officers and Council of the American Philosophical Society, affectionately mindful of the relations that have so long and intimately subsisted between them and their venerable associate, Mr. Vaughan, direct this memorial of their feeling towards him to be entered upon their minutes.

“They remember Mr. Vaughan as the patriarch representative of the Society, its oldest member, who had for more than fifty years been an officer at this Board. They can never forget his zeal for science in all its departments, his sympathy with scientific men, and his unlimited devotion to the interests and honour of this Institution. They have proved the warmth of his social affections, and the constancy of his friendship. They have seen his active, unwearied, yet discriminating benevolence, as it extended itself through every circle; rejoicing with the happy, cheering the distressed, counselling the friendless, and succouring the needy. Like the rest of this community, they have venerated the moral beauty of his daily life; and they feel, that even in his peaceful death, he has not ceased to be a

benefactor to the city in which he lived, bequeathing to it, as he has done, the rich legacy of his admirable example, and a memory without reproach.

“*Resolved*, That a Committee of the Officers and Council be appointed to make arrangements for the funeral.

“*Resolved*, That these proceedings be reported to the Society at its special meeting, to be held to-morrow evening.”

“The President appointed Dr. Chapman and Prof. Bache, the Committee under the first resolution.

“FRANKLIN BACHE, *Sec'ry*.”

Dr. Chapman then presented the following preamble and resolutions; which were adopted unanimously.

The American Philosophical Society entertains the deepest sense of the loss it has sustained, in the death of its venerable and beloved associate, John Vaughan. The oldest of its members, he was also among its most diligent, faithful and efficient. Long devoted to the furtherance of its objects, he failed not at the same time to conciliate the confidence and affection of all with whom he was connected, by the elevation and moral tone of his spirit, the purity of his disposition, and the amenity of his manners. A zealous promoter of science, he was actuated by the contemplation of its inherent excellence, and tendencies to benefit the great concerns of mankind, without a single aspiration after its honours, distinctions, or emoluments. Content to occupy in the Society stations of laborious usefulness, he continued to the last moment of life to render to it services of inestimable value, and was only diverted from the exclusive advancement of its prosperity by the claims of other institutions of learning, or of charity, or of benevolence; none of which were ever presented to him, without awakening his zeal, and enlisting a share of his active exertions in their behalf. Modest and unassuming—disinterested, generous, social, and hospitable—beneficent, cordial, and sincere—it may truly be affirmed of him, that no one was more uniformly esteemed by a singularly extensive acquaintance; and no one certainly among us has contributed more largely to the cause of humanity in its several relations, or can bequeath to this Society and

Community a brighter example to venerate and to follow. With these impressions of the character and services of its deceased associate, the Society has resolved:—

1st. That the arrangements made by the Board of Officers and Council, be approved and confirmed.

2d. That the Hall of the Society be appropriated for the reception of Mr. Vaughan's body before interment, and that his family and friends be requested to assemble there, on the occasion of his obsequies.

3d. That the members of the Society will attend the funeral, as mourners.

4th. That a member be appointed to prepare the biography of Mr. Vaughan, for publication under the auspices of the Society.

5th. That the Society will cordially co-operate with other Societies of which he was a member, or individuals approving the design, in erecting a durable monument over his grave.

6th. That the members, individually, tender their affectionate condolence and sympathy to the relatives of Mr. Vaughan, on the occasion of their common bereavement; and that the Secretaries be charged with the duty of communicating a copy of these resolutions to William Vaughan, Esq. of London, the oldest representative of his family.

Alexander Dallas Bache, Esq. one of the Secretaries, was appointed under the fourth resolution, to prepare Mr. Vaughan's Biography.
